

A Temporary Silt Ditch is commonly placed at the toe of a fill slope to prevent off-site sedimentation. The silt ditch should direct flow to silt basins, rock sediment dams, or other erosion control measures located at the outlet of the silt ditch. It can be used in place of silt fence, where conditions allow.

**AREAS OF USE:**

- At the toe of fill slopes where the fill exceeds 3 feet in height.
- Adjacent to streams to intercept flow and/or divert the flow to a controlled outlet point.
- The silt ditch should NOT be used within jurisdictional waters or wetlands.

**DESIGN CRITERIA:**

- Drainage area should be 5 acres or less.
- Grade should be limited to prevent erosive velocities.
- The capacity of the temporary diversion should be the peak runoff from a 10-year storm.

**CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS:**

- The silt ditch should be approximately 1 foot deep.
- The side slopes should be approximately 2:1.
- The excavated material can be placed on downslope side of ditch, as an optional earth berm.

**MATERIAL SPECIFICATIONS:**

- The temporary silt ditch and berm shall be considered unclassified earth material.

**PAYMENT:**

- Excavation of device and silt cleanout of device:

Silt Excavation

Cubic Yard

**MAINTENANCE:**

- Clean out sediment accumulation when the silt ditch is one-half full.
- Rebuild the ditch daily when it is damaged by equipment or covered by fill.
- Inspect the erosion control devices at the outlet of the silt ditch, and clean out and repair these devices as necessary.

**TYPICAL PROBLEMS:**

- Excessive sediment accumulations in the ditch.
- May be difficult to access when the adjacent fill slopes are high.
- The devices at the outlet of the ditch are not maintained, allowing sediment to escape.
- Requires room for stockpiling sediment cleanout material or the material must be hauled off.